

## County of Los Angeles

## Sheriff's Bepartment Headquarters 4700 Ramona Boulevard Monterey Park, California 91754–2169



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October 18, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Los Angeles, California 90012

**Dear Supervisors:** 

## SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CENTRALIZED HOUSING AND CLASSIFICATION QUARTERLY UPDATE

On January 17, 2006, your Board requested that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) provide quarterly updates on the new centralized housing and classification system for inmates including implementation and adherence of new protocols and policies, the timeliness and accuracy of reclassifications, and ongoing staff training.

Since the last quarterly report to your Board dated July 17, 2007, the two Central Housing Units (North and South) have continued their daily monitoring of the various inmate populations that must be housed separately due to security level or special handling status, and regularly move groups of these inmates into housing locations that better reflect their growing (or decreasing) population numbers, thereby maximizing the use of available beds within each jail facility.

On July 2, 2007, the Central Housing Unit-North began using a morning bus to consolidate and fill vacant beds at Pitchess Detention Center (PDC) East, South, and North facilities with inmates from the North County Correctional Facility (NCCF). The NCCF is the only jail at the PDC equipped with a fully functioning inmate processing area capable of efficiently handling the transfer of large numbers of inmates into and out of the facility. Filling vacancies at other PDC facilities with a dedicated bus from the NCCF allows large incoming inmate transfer lines arriving at PDC from the Inmate Reception Center to go directly to the NCCF where they can be safely and efficiently processed. Additionally, the Correctional Services Division, Transportation Bureau's busses transporting these transfer lines are able to make a single stop and off-load all of their inmates at once, rather than stopping at four separate facilities and off-loading

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inmates at each stop. Since the Department's bus drivers' "drive time" is regulated by Federal law, the time saved due to this change is significant.

Two additional compounds were opened at the PDC South Facility as a result of funding received from your Board. The first compound opened on July 15, 2007, providing 252 beds for low security inmates. The second compound opened on October 12, 2007, providing a total of 270 beds for medium security inmates over the age of 40. The utilization of these compounds provides the availability to implement higher-security beds at other facilities.

On October 7, 2007, the Department increased the amount of time served by sentenced male inmates from 50 percent to 70 percent. This change will increase the number of sentenced inmates within the jail system including inmate workers in the jails. Additionally, this will result in an increase in our Community-Based Alternatives to Custody, Work Release, and Electronic Monitoring programs for eligible inmates.

The Central Housing Units are a fully integrated and critical component of the inmate housing process within the Los Angeles County Jail system. The Central Housing Units' work increases jail safety and security. It also reduces Department liability by monitoring the timely processing of inmates within the Inmate Reception Center, while maintaining the integrity of security-level based housing, and ensuring the most efficient use of the limited number of inmate beds available.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Acting Chief Alexander Yim, Correctional Services Division, at (213) 893-5017.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA

SHERIFF